

DFD assists in Halifax rescue

Man trapped in trench after walls collapse

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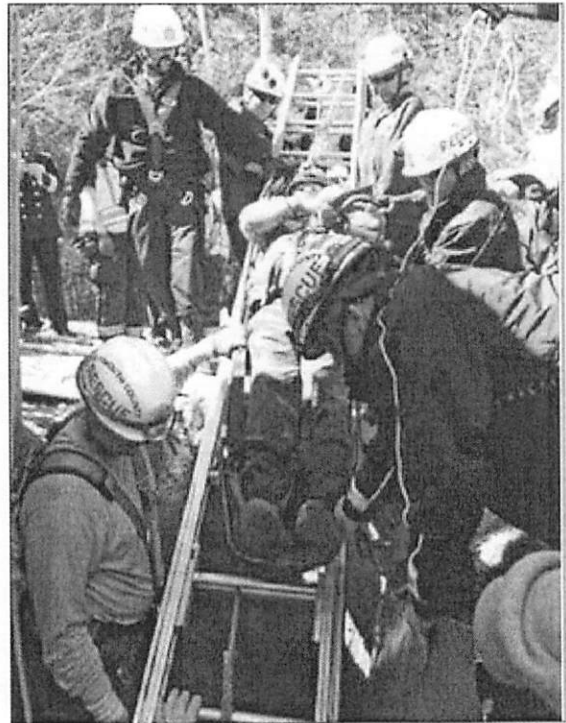
Duxbury's Fire Department was called to help rescue a man stuck eight feet down in a trench in Halifax last week.

According to Duxbury Fire Captain Rob Reardon, five Duxbury fire fighters who are part of the Plymouth County Technical Rescue Team were dispatched last Tuesday morning to Halifax to help a man who was buried up to his chest in earth. The victim had been conducting a septic tank inspection when the sidewall he was standing on collapsed and dirt rained down on him, pinning him in the trench.

"Upon arrival, the 35-member Technical Rescue Team quickly went to work, placing ground pads around the trench to disperse the weight of the rescuers," said Duxbury Fire Chief Keven Nord in prepared statement about the incident. "A helmet and eye protection were handed to the victim and shoring panels were placed and secured." Halifax Fire Chief Jason Vivieros kept the victim calm and bystanders away, Nord added.

Rescue workers entered the trench and began digging out the man with small shovels and transporting the soil out using five gallon buckets.

Duxbury fire fighters and paramedics helped Halifax EMS tend to the victim; Duxbury paramedic Jack Ahern started an IV and rescue crews placed heaters in the area to keep the man warm since the earth is cold and he was in danger of hypothermia, said Reardon. Nearly 90 minutes passed before the victim was extricated. He was taken by Medflight helicopter to the hospital. He is currently out of the hospital and doing well, said Reardon.



The trapped man was hauled out of the trench 90 minutes after rescue crews arrived at the scene.

Photos courtesy Duxbury Fire Department



Duxbury fire fighter/paramedic Jack Ahern works in tight quarters below grade to start an IV on the trapped victim on the left.



Duxbury fire fighter and County Technical Rescue Team member Jack Ahern prepares to enter the trench to start an IV on the trapped victim in Halifax.